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Submission: To say I am stunned at the stratospheric height of this proposed SVR is an understatement. To a Pensioner like myself on a fixed income knowing I will be paying a compounding Rate Rise of 7.5% per year for the next 7 yrs is nearly incomprehensible for me to come to terms with. Think about it, this is a 65% rate rise over 7 years. Does Mayor [REDACTED] think we live in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney amongst billionaires and millionaires?

Our Mayor, [REDACTED] if he sincerely believes that a fixed income Pensioner can in any way afford such a ludicrous expansion of our Rates. If he is trying to get pensioners to sell our only real asset and downsize he is going the right way about it. This will, in turn, make the Port Stephens pensioners easy prey for Developers to move in and desecrate our beautiful area. The rate rise will price myself and my wife out of our home and leave us with a pittance to survive on. This fact in itself is almost criminal, to say the least.

This proposed SVR was set as a question to Port Stephens ratepayers and the simmering disgust from anyone I speak to who had thought that their votes on this SVR would be listened to is palpable. The resounding NO vote in the 70% of written and 75% of telephone votes left us in no uncertain terms thinking that this would be enough to discourage any further action on it. How wrong we were it seems. [REDACTED]

I am trusting that Ipart in its careful consideration of this SVR take into account the rules and regulations you use to approve and disapprove submissions. Even your own guidelines state that to be fair to ratepayers that any SVR's must be used for the essential community services that are in jeopardy. This entire SVR request does NOT mention ANY such essential services that are in jeopardy, only cycleways, footpaths, sporting facilities and bbq areas.